

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LUSAKA 01761 171314Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 NEA-11 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-12
AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SCS-06 CA-01 OPR-02 HA-05
PC-01 SY-05 OC-06 CCO-00 MCT-01 A-01 /140 W
-----130014 171323Z /45

O P 171228Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8439
INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KIGALI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY
USINT HAVANA PRIORITY
USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 1761

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS MOPS PBOR CG ZA
SUBJ: SHABA INCURSIONS - ZAMBIAN VIEWS

REF: (A) STATE 125192, (B) STATE 124005, (C) LUSAKA 1755

1. CHARGE MET WITH UNDER SECRETARY ZIMBA MAY 17 TO DISCUSS
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PAGE 02 LUSAKA 01761 171314Z

POINTS MADE IN REFTEL A. ALSO PASSED TO HIM INFORMATION
ABOUT CONTINGENCY ALERT MEASURES TAKEN REGARDING 82ND AIR-
BORNE AND INFO ON ZAIRIAN AIR DROP (REFTEL B).

2. ZIMBA, WHO IS COORDINATING POINT FOR GRZ ACTIONS RE-
GARDING SHABA, SAID THAT HE AND OTHERS IN GRZ UNDERSTOOD
WHY USG WOULD PUT UNITS OF 82ND AIRBORNE ON ALERT--THAT

THIS WAS OUT OF HUMANITARIAN CONSIDERATIONS. HE ASKED THAT HE BE INFORMED IF STEPS WERE TAKEN TO USE THE 82ND.

3. ON REFUGEES, ZIMBA SAID ZAMBIAN IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO DO EVERYTHING TO BE HELPFUL IN THE EVENT THAT EUROPEANS WERE EVACUATED FROM SHABA. CLEARANCES FOR AIRCRAFT TRANSPORTING EVACUEES ARE TO BE GIVEN EXPEDITIOUSLY. HOWEVER, HE STRESSED THAT CLEARANCES WOULD BE FOR CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT ONLY. ZIMBA SAID THAT BRITISH HAD ALREADY REQUESTED PERMISSION FOR SOME OF THEIR CITIZENS TO PROCEED TO ZAMBIA FROM ZAIRE. ARRANGEMENTS HAD BEEN MADE FOR SMALL AIRCRAFT TO LAND AT NDOLA WHERE THEIR CLEARANCE WOULD BE EXPEDITED BY ZAMBIAN IMMIGRATION. HE ASKED THAT I KEEP HIM INFORMED ON AN URGENT BASIS OF ANY PLANS TO EVACUATE AMERICANS TO ZAMBIA.

4. ZIMBA FLATLY DENIED THAT THE GRZ CONDONED KATANGAN INFILTRATION ACROSS ZAMBIAN SOIL WHILE ADMITTING THAT THIS MIGHT HAVE TAKEN PLACE WITHOUT ZAMBIA'S KNOWLEDGE. ON HIS RECOMMENDATION, DECISION HAD BEEN MADE BY GRZ TO RESPOND TO ALL ZAIRIAN ACCUSATIONS ON THIS SCORE IN A LOW KEY. BY SO DOING GRZ HOPED TO KEEP DAMAGE TO ZAMBIAN-ZAIRIAN RELATIONS TO A MINIMUM.

5. PRESIDENT KAUNDA SCHEDULED STOP IN LUANDA MAY 24 HAD BEEN PLANNED AS ANOTHER STEP IN ZAMBIA'S ATTEMPT TO ACT CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 LUSAKA 01761 171314Z

AS AN INTERMEDIARY BETWEEN ZAIRE AND ANGOLA. ZIMBA WAS UNCERTAIN IF THIS STOP WOULD NOW TAKE PLACE. VISIT BY KAUNDA AT THIS TIME MIGHT BE MISINTERPRETED AS SUPPORT FOR ANGOLA IN ITS TROUBLES WITH ZAIRE.

6. COMMENT: WE SHOULD NOT TAKE ZIMBA'S ASSURANCES THAT GRZ WOULD UNDERSTAND MOTIVATIONS SHOULD AMERICAN FORCES BE USED TO EVACUATE EUROPEANS FROM SHABA AT FACE VALUE. HE MIGHT UNDERSTAND, BUT THE POSSIBILITY IS GREAT THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD FEEL COMPELLED TO CONDEMN SUCH INTERVENTION AS UNWARRANTED INVOLVEMENT IN AFRICAN AFFAIRS. CLINGERMAN

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NNN

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